

- *1,000 point list updated and milestones examined
- * Capsules on list luminaries
- *Flom steps down
- *Reflections on point lists

Top honors to Whitlock, Johnson

By Bruce Strand

Nasir Whitlock, who barely missed state championships twice, and Tessa Johnson, who nailed down her elusive state title with the final two points of her career, were the most honored basketball players of the Minnesota 2022-23 high school season.

Whitlock, of DeLaSalle, a 6-foot-2 guard, garnered the Mr. Basketball award and the coaches' association's McDonald Award, and was the Star-Tribune's Metro Player of the Year.

Johnson, of St. Michael-Albertville, a 5-foot-10 guard, collected the Miss Basketball award and Star-Tribune Metro Player of the Year award. Max Preps (a national high school source) cited her as state player of the year.

Johnson was also just the seventh Minnesota girl to play in the McDonald's All-American game, joining Maya Nnaji, Paige Bueckers, and Nia Coffey of Hopkins, Rebekah Dahlman of Braham, Tayler Hill of Minneapolis South and Liz Podominick of Eastview.

Whitlock, signed by Lehigh University (PA), delivered 26.7 points, 6.3 assists, 4.0 assists and 2.3 steals per game this season. He averaged 22.9 points as a junior and 13.9 as a sopho-



more, and totaled 1,831 points. His most memorable game was racking up an Islanders record 52 points in a 91-78 win over Hopkins. He shot 52 percent overall, 41 percent on three's and 80 percent on free shots.

Whitlock played in three state tournaments and led the Islanders to the Class 3A finals the last two years, each time losing close games to Totino-Grace, 50-44 and 50-46. He



Tessa Johnson, St. Michael-Albertville, above, and Nasir Whitlock, DeLaSalle, left.

SmugMug

scored 151 points in eight state tournament games.

Johnson, signed by South Carolina, the 2022 national champion and a Final Four team again this year, averaged 23.3 points, 6.4 assists, 5.8 rebounds and 3.0 steals this season while shooting 49 percent overall, 36 percent on three's (making 67) and 84 percent at the line.

Johnson's most spectacular perfor-

mance was a 51-point game in a 97-70 win over top-ranked Chaska in December but by far her most important was her 27-point, 10-rebound state final when STMA built a 20-point lead on Hopkins and hung on for a 71-70 win. Her two free shots with just seconds left gave the Knights barely enough cushion to hold off the Royals, against whom she had been 0-6 in her career, including a state finals loss last year.

Johnson racked up 2,289 career points, 553 rebounds, 443 assists and 279 steals, despite missing her sophomore year with a broken left femur. A starter in eighth grade, she had four varsity seasons.

Both players got equally high marks for talent, team play and floor leadership.

“He knows how to manage a game,” coach Trent Anderson told CBS Channel 4 in a feature on Whitlock. “He knows how to get his other guys involved and when to do that He’s always been a worker, a grinder.” Said Whitlock to the same interviewer: “Whatever the team needs me to do, I can do — defense, facilitating, trying to get my teammates involved,” Whitlock told the same interviewer.

Brett Reed, Lehigh coach, assessed that Whitlock is “a gifted scorer...a solid combination of ball handling ability and creativity ... a bright young man who has a passion for basketball.”

South Carolina coach Dawn Staley extolled Johnson as “a well-rounded player who uses her perimeter ability and size to play multiple positions. She is a proven perimeter scorer at three levels. We anxiously await her skill set.”

STMA coach Kent Hamre described Johnson as a selfless, team-first player who deflected accolades to her teammates, and as an extremely driven player who was never satisfied, always improving. He added that Johnson had an intense desire to achieve a final, elusive goal.

“After we had completed our section championship game, that Hopkins game was still going on. It was going to overtime,” Hamre told the Star-Tribune, referring to Hopkins’ section final victory over Wayzata.

“She was cheering for Hopkins because she did not want her career to end without having one final crack at Hopkins. ... To beat the best makes it a complete championship.”

Embattled Flom resigns at E.P.

By Bruce Strand

The racial epithet uttered by David Flom was not directed at anyone; rather, it slipped out in a classroom discussion of an inappropriate social media post. In other words, teaching how NOT to act. But in the end, the exceptional Eden Prairie coach drew enough wrath for the single incident to give up his post.

“I have decided it’s time for someone else to take leadership of the Eden Prairie basketball program,” Flom stated after the season in a e-mail to Eden Prairie basketball families. “Unfortunately, in the past several months, some people have made comments and characterizations about me that are not true and that do not accurately represent my track record at Eden Prairie. As a result of all of this, I have decided that it is best for me to step aside.”

Flom, an elementary teacher, accumulated a 393-165 record at Eden Prairie with eight state tournament trips and a runner-up finish in 2011. His tenure was highlighted by the 28-0 season of 2019-20 when the Eagles were heavy favorites for the state tournament that was canceled due to the COVID-19 outbreak. He got a national coach of the year award that year.

Flom’s statement included his account of the incident that occurred in a meeting of coaches and players: “In December, I inadvertently read aloud another person’s use of a racial epithet in the context of teaching a lesson about the long-lasting and damaging impact of racist language and irresponsible use of social media. My reading of another person’s words caused harm, and I am truly sorry to everyone I hurt.”

Flom was suspended for several weeks but returned late in the season. He received support, including a standing ovation his first game back and a public endorsement from the head of the Eagles’ basketball association, but there was also blowback. Some players of color quit the team and their families hired a lawyer who alleged Flom had made the team hostile to Black players. The North St. Paul team refused to play the Eagles. Families of players who quit protested at home games.

Activities director Russ Reetz stated: “Our focus now will be on providing the team with the best possible support and finding ways to heal after a difficult season.”

Presenting the annual 1,000-Point Club update

The updated Minnesota 1,000-Point Club and various facts about it appear on this page and the next five. This list is compiled by Matt Pederson of Starbuck, who has served as historian and record-keeper for state high school basketball for many years

1,000-pointers active this season

Seniors — 126 girls, 128 boys
Juniors — 41 girls, 41 boys
Sophomores — 11 girls, 6 boys
Freshmen — 4 girls
Total — 182 girls, 174 boys

1,000-pointers all-time

4,156 boys and 3,545 girls

This year's top career scorers

Seniors

Asher Zubich, Mountain Iron-Buhl: 3,576
Taryn Hamling, Grand Rapids: 2,337

Juniors

Isaac Asuma, Cherry: 2,719
Jordan Zubich, Mountain Iron-Buhl: 2,578

Sophomores

Addi Mack, Minnehaha Academy: 2,634
Brooks Johnson, Duluth Marshall: 1,558

Teams with three current 1,000-pointers

Girls — Becker, Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart, Mountain Iron-Buhl, Pine City

Boys — Border West, Hiawatha Collegiate, Minnetonka, North Woods, Northland

Schools with five current 1,000-pointers (boys/girls)

Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart, Mountain Iron-Buhl



Left:
Asher
Zubich

Right:
Taryn
Hamling

Family 1,000-pointers this year

—Mountain Iron-Buhl's Asher and Jordan Zubich
—Northland senior twins Nolan and Aiden Carlson
—Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart junior twins Kristi and Rachel Kottke
—Rochester Mayo senior triplets Hannah and Isaiah Hanson*
—Finley Ohnstad, Lakeville South junior, joining parents, Mitch Ohnstad, Faribault, and Angie Iverson, Owatonna

Historical milestones

First boy to 1,000 — Hal Haskins, Alexandria, 1943
First girl to 1,000 — Georgine Troska, Goodridge, 1977
First boy to 2,000 — Ron Johnson, New Prague, 1956
First girl to 2,000 — Janet Karvonen, New York Mills, 1979
First boy to 2,500 — Norm Grow, Foley, 1958
First girl to 2,500 — Karvonen, 1980
First boy to 3,000 — Joel McDonald, Chisholm, 1991
First girl to 3,000 — Karvonen, 1980
First boy to 3,500 — Kevin Noreen, Minnesota Transitions, 2010
First girl to 3,500 — Katie Ohm, Elgin-Millville, 2005
First boy to 4,000 — Noreen, 2010
First girl to 4,000 — Rebekah Dahlman, Braham, 2012
First boy to 5,000 — Anders Broman, Lakeview Christian, 2013
First girl to 5,000 — Dahlman, 2013

BOYS CURRENT 1,000-POINTERS

Sam Musungu, '23, Andover - 1,731	Nathan Zielinski, '23, East Central - 1,104
Ben Kopetzki, '23, Andover - 1,722	Ethan Arntson, '23, East Grand Forks
Zach Blawat, '23, Badger-Greenbush-	Sacred Heart - 1,130
Middle River - 1,439	Alex Mattes, '23, East Ridge - 1,127
Jack Mekalson, '24, Battle Lake - 1,083	Cade Osterman, '23, Elk River - 1,191
Kaden Pieper, '23, Belgrade-Brooten-	Joey Bianco, '23, Ely - 1,790
Elrosa - 2,092	Makoi Perich, '24, Esko - 1,540
Luke Dingmann, '24, Belgrade-Brooten-	Cuinn Berger, '23, Esko - 1,095
Elrosa - 1,156	Noah Brumfield, '24, Fergus Falls Hillcrest
Isaac Severts, '23, Bemidji - 1,267	Lutheran Academy - 1,008
Jalen Wilson, '25, Benilde-St. Margaret's - 1,026	Caiden Swenby, '24, Fertile-Beltrami - 1,464
Juan Espinoza, '23, Benson - 1,122	Derek Sorenson, '24, Fertile-Beltrami - 1,089
Jhace Pearson, '23, Bigfork - 1,358	Jayce Kiehne, '24, Fillmore Central - 1,117
Oliver Stroeing, '23, Blackduck - 1,272	Jordan Brown, '23, Fond du Lac Ojibwe - 1,417
Dante Frank, '23, Blackduck - 1,045	Jordell Brown, '24, Fond du Lac Ojibwe - 1,073
Daniel Freitag, '24, Bloomington	Will Opsahl, '23, Goodhue - 1,601
Jefferson - 1,675	Adam Poncelet, '23, Goodhue - 1,021
Ashton Lloyd, '23, Blue Earth Area - 1,161	Lewis Jones, '24, Goodridge/Grygla-
Clint Determan, '23, Border West - 1,609	Gatzke - 1,515
Dylan Bainbridge, '23, Border West - 1,342	Blake Rychlock, '24, Goodridge/Grygla-
Cole Gilsdorf, '23, Border West - 1,301	Gatzke - 1,036
Caleb Shusted, '23, Braham - 1,104	Sam Senske, '23, Hawley - 1,144
John Pecarich, '23, Brainerd - 1,338	Isaac Matti, '23, Hayfield - 2,170
Dezmond White, '23, Brandon-Evansville - 1,006	Ethan Pack, '23, Hayfield - 1,263
Quyavant Douglas, '23, Brooklyn Center - 2,181	Mason Hammer, '23, Henning - 1,414
Nate Dahl, '23, Buffalo - 1,143	Tyson Misegades, '23, Henning - 1,162
Chase Hubin, '24, Buffalo Lake-Hector-	Sawyer Drent, '23, Heron Lake-Okabena/
Stewart - 1,028	Fulda - 1,754
Connor McColley, '23, Buffalo Lake-Hector-	Jessye Lewis Jr., '23, Hiawatha
Stewart - 1,011	Collegiate - 2,410
Khalif Bettis, '23, Burnsville - 1,029	Romelle Bell, '23, Hiawatha Collegiate - 1,208
Kobe Karels, '23, Cambridge-Isanti - 1,362	Jaheim Houts, '23, Hiawatha Collegiate - 1,168
Luuke Korpela, '24, Carlton - 1,032	Boden Kapke, '23, Holy Family Catholic - 1,781
Ethan Bulthuis, '23, Central MN Christian - 1,190	Kole Hanson, '24, Holy Family Catholic - 1,103
Maxwell Woods, '24, Chanhassen - 1,128	Travis Rogotzke, '23, Jackson County,
Isaac Asuma, '24, Cherry - 2,709	Central - 1,012
Noah Sundquist, '25, Cherry - 1,222	Memphis James, '24, Janesville-Waldorf-
Patrick Rowe, '24, Chisago Lakes - 1,057	Pemberton - 1,137
July Abernathy, '23, Chisholm - 1,031	Michael Jude, '23, Kaleidoscope Charter - 2,150
Logan Westrum, '23, Clearbrook-Gonvick - 1,138	Matthew Aasen, '23, Kaleidoscope
Jonathan Reid, '23, Community Christian - 1,137	Charter - 1,197
AJ Greene, '23, Concordia Academy - 2,068	Jayden Brink, '24, Kingsland - 1,000
Keegon Wicht, '23, Dawson-Boyd - 1,232	Carter Todd, '23, La Crescent-Hokak - 1,124
Brayson Boike, '25, Dawson-Boyd - 1,056	Hunter Lorensen, '24, Lake City - 1,174
Sam Rahier, '23, Deer River - 1,350	Zach Wells, '23, Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memo-
Ethan Williams, '23, Deer River - 1,162	rial - 1,344
Nasir Whitlock, '23, DeLaSalle - 1,831	Trey Ogren, '23, Lake Region Christian
Owen Leach, '23, Dilworth-Glyndon-	School - 1,215
Felton - 2,869	Nathan Fenske, '23, Lakeview - 1,499
Brooks Johnson, '25, Duluth Marshall - 1,558	Nolan Winter, '23, Lakeville North - 1,347
Emmanuel Schmitter, '23, Eagan - 1,269	John Prestemon, '23, Lanesboro - 1,420

BOYS 1,000 LIST CONTINUED

Jake Truckenmiller, '23, Lyle/Austin
Pacelli - 1,088
Cayden Tollefsrud, '24, Mabel-Canton - 1,501
Owen Carlson, '23, Mahtomedi - 1,337
Will Underwood, '23, Mahtomedi - 1,083
Lawson Godfrey, '23, Mankato Loyola - 1,800
Simon Morgan, '23, Mankato Loyola - 1,242
Landon Dimler, '24, Mankato West - 1,342
Mason Schirmer, '23, Maple River - 1,395
Will Sellers, '23, Maple River - 1,048
Bailey McDonald, '23, Maranatha Christian
Academy - 1,097
Zach Anderson, '23, Martin County West - 1,993
Mitchell Weber, '23, Martin County West - 1,146
Salviya "Josh" Balami, '24, Math & Science
Academy - 1,020
Ethan Bohn, '23, McGregor - 1,281
Austin Erickson, '23, Medford - 1,078
Lewis Wolbert, '23, Milaca - 1,203
Peyton Hunt, '23, Milaca - 1,186
Micah Young, '23, Minneapolis Edison - 1,215
Jerome Williams, '24, Minnehaha Acad. - 1,247
Ben Pearson, '24, Minnesota Valley
Lutheran - 1,005
Ibrahim El-Amin, '23, Minnetonka - 1,122
Andy Stefanowicz, '24, Minnetonka - 1,084
Jalen Cain, '23, Minnetonka - 1,002
Adam Jenkins, '23, Moorhead - 1,143
Asher Zubich, '23, Mountain Iron-Buhl - 3,576
Nikolas Jesch, '23, Mountain Iron-Buhl - 1,791
Carter Olson, '24, Mountain Lake Area/
Comfrey - 1,034
Max Briggs, '23, New Life Academy - 1,118
Erick Reader, '23, New Life Academy - 1,058
Brycen Christensen, '23, New London-
Spicer - 1,048
Daxter Lee, '24, New Richland-Heartland-
Ellendale-Geneva - 1,229
Colton Benson, '24, New Ulm - 1,409
Jevan Wilfahrt, '24, New Ulm Cathedral - 1,196
Jared Chiabotti, '23, North Woods - 1,490
Brenden Chiabotti, '23, North Woods - 1,192
Jonah Burnett, '24, North Woods - 1,084
Soren Richardson, '23, Northfield - 1,240
Alec Wake, '23, Northland-Remer - 2,556
Nolan Carlson, '23, Northland-Remer - 1,293
Aiden Carlson, '23, Northland-Remer - 1,085
Braeden O'Neil, '23, Norwood Young
America - 1,251
Noah Strickfaden, '23, Norwood Young
America - 1,156
Isaiah Hagen, '23, Orono - 1,392
De'Mari Larkins, '24, Osseo - 1,214
CJ O'Hara, '23, Park Center - 1,783
Casmir Chavis, '24, Park Center - 1,161
Eli Laposky, '23, Pequot Lakes - 1,302
Soren Anderson, '23, Perham - 1,177
Micah Thompson, '23, Perham - 1,097
Luke Wilson, '23, Pine City - 1,006
Rian Struss, '23, Pine River-Backus - 1,112
Aeron Stevens, '23, Plainview-Elgin-
Millville - 1,452
Cooper Drews, '23, Princeton - 1,655
Gerald Kingbird, Jr., '24, Red Lake - 1,258
Ken Fox III, '23, Red Lake - 1,122
Gerald Melin, '23, Red Lake County - 1,088
Isaiah Hanson, '23, Rochester Mayo - 1,069
Grant Hansen, '23, Rock Ridge - 1,525
Carter Mavec, '23, Rock Ridge - 1,481
Aiden Wichmann, '23, Russell-Tyler-
Ruthton - 1,692
Drew Werkman, '24, Russell-Tyler-
Ruthton - 1,041
Jay Neubert, '24, Sauk Centre - 2,017
Ethan Van Schepen, '25, Schaeffer Acad. -
1,065
Kaleb Wait, '23, Sleepy Eye St. Mary's - 1,457
Will Walter, '24, Sleepy Eye St. Mary's - 1,032
Austin Josephson, '23, South Ridge - not
known
Elijah Solum, '24, Spring Grove - 1,218
Tysen Grinde, '23, Spring Grove - 1,106
Tameron Ferguson, '24, St. Cloud Tech - 1,169
Matthew Bothun, '23, St. Francis - 1,848
Will McGlynn, '23, Stephen-Argyle - 1,068
Max Shikenjanski, '23, Stillwater - 2,406
Jack Manning, '23, Thief River Falls - 1,791
Taison Chatman, '23, Totino-Grace - 1,379
Trevor Smith, '25, Tracy-Milroy-Balaton - 1,058
Trent Gomez, '23, Two Harbors - 2,374
Tyson Mortimer, '23, Warren-Alvarado-
Oslo - 1,418
Jackson Woinorawicz, '23, Warren-Alvarado-
Oslo - 1,418
John Mueller, '23, Watertown-Mayer - 1,277
Hayden Tibbits, '23, Wayzata - 1,118
Jack Janicki, '23, White Bear Lake - 2,000
Henry Erickson, '23, Windom - 1,569
Abe McKibbin, '23, Windom - 1,450
Justin Courneya, '24, Win-E-Mac - 2,029
Caden Spence, '23, Zimmerman - 1,112
Kayden Rodrick, '23, Zumbrota-Mazeppa - 1,136

GIRLS CURRENT 1,000-POINTERS

Ella Pritchard, '23, Academy of Holy Angels - 1,511
Kendall Kenis, '23, Albert Lea - 1,053
Kinsley Hanson, '23, Badger-Greenbush-Middle River - 1,323
Rayna Klejeski, '23, Barnum - 1,639
Allison Marine, '23, Barnum - 1,487
Dani Nuest, '23, Becker - 1,351
Maren Westin, '23, Becker - 1,294
Ayla Brown, '23, Becker - 1,284
Abby Berge, '23, Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa - 1,442
Olivia Olson, '24, Benilde-St. Margaret's - 1,836
Kendall McGee, '25, Benilde-St. Margaret's - 1,686
Molly Garber, '23, Blaine - 1,084
Mari Ryberg, '23, BOLD - 1,289
Lainey Braulick, '25, BOLD - 1,196
Rachel Kottke, '24, Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart - 1,245
Kristi Kottke, '24, Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart - 1,231
Allison Milbrandt, '23, Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart - 1,039
Kendra Harvey, '25, Byron - 1,113
Ava Privet, '23, Caledonia - 1,195
Alexis Schroeder, '23, Caledonia - 1,083
Gabrielle Fineday, '25, Cass Lake-Bena - 1,524
Ava Holman, '24, Champlin Park - 1,099
Kennedy Sanders, '23, Chaska - 1,919
Tresa Baumgard, '24, Chisholm - 1,835
Hannah Kne, '23, Chisholm - 1,205
Alexa Snesrud, '23, Cloquet - 1,278
Lilah Bergan, '23, Columbia Heights - 1,585
Sophia Bollig, '23, Community Christian - 2,249
Sascha Korpela, '24, Cromwell-Wright - 1,162
Halle Winjum, '24, Crookston - 1,463
Tori Oehrlein, '26, Crosby-Ironton - 2,280
Hannah Compton, '23, Crosby-Ironton - 1,767
Ashlynn Guenther, '23, Duluth East - 2,044
Rachel Hagen, '23, Duluth East - 1,034
Regan Juenemann, '25, Duluth Marshall - 1,442
Emily Christenson, '23, East Ridge - 1,130
Molly Lenz, '23, Eden Prairie - 1,093
Ashley Fritz, '23, Eden Prairie - 1,050
Whitney Jansen, '23, Eden Valley-Watkins - 1,232
Alyda Vande Griend, '24, Edgerton - 1,177
Grace LaTourell, '24, Ely - 1,339
Madison Ballweg, '23, Fergus Falls Hillcrest Lutheran Academy - 1,078

Josie Iverson, '23, Fertile-Beltrami - 1,171
Katelyn Vesledahl, '23, Fosston - 1,548
Kinsley Duppong, '23, Fosston - 1,017
Brynn Busse, '23, Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop - 1,794
Mylea Monahan, '25, Glencoe-Silver Lake - 1,163
Tori Miller, '23, Goodhue - 1,285
Elisabeth Gadiant, '24, Goodhue - 1,244
Caitlyn Jacobson, '23, Goodridge/Grygla-Gatzke - 1,750
Taryn Hamling, '23, Grand Rapids - 2,337
Jessika Lofstrom, '24, Grand Rapids - 1,215
Kaitlyn Rohloff, '25, Hancock - 1,134
Anna Steer, '23, Hawley - 1,122
Kristen Watson, '24, Hayfield - 1,864
Natalie Beaver, '24, Hayfield - 1,509
Lyvia Misegades, '24, Henning - 1,026
Kaitlan Jones, '23, Heritage Christian - 1,324
Sophi Hall, '23, Holy Family Catholic - 1,522
Jocelyn Land, '24, Holy Family Catholic - 1,224
Taylor Woodson, '23, Hopkins - 1,708
Nunu Agara, '23, Hopkins - 1,342
Sydney Torgerson, '23, Houston - 1,792
Ivy Fasching, '23, Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted - 1,186
Brynn Beffert, '23, Hutchinson - 1,893
Maci Farmer, '23, Jackson Co. Central - 1,806
Jenna Kluxdal, '23, Jordan - 1,256
Aby Shubert, '23, Kasson-Mantorville - 1,693
Kate Thayer, '26, Kelliher-Northome - 1,201
Tessa Erlandson, '23, Kenyon-Wanamingo - 1,003
Ellie Kuechle, '23, Kimball Area - 1,460
Molly Bills, '23, La Crescent/Hokah - 1,306
Cali Esser, '23, La Crescent/Hokah - 1,117
Taylor Shelstad, '23, Lac qui Parle Valley - 1,441
Camryn Lee, '23, Lac qui Parle Valley - 1,397
Olivia Harazin, '23, Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial - 2,157
Lauren Cooper, '23, Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial - 1,149
Finley Ohnstad, '24, Lakeville South - 1,141
Kaci Ruen, '23, Lanesboro - 1,236
Jessie Schreiber, '23, Lanesboro - 1,054
Jordan Runde, '23, LeRoy-Ostrander - 1,001
Elizabeth Wagner, '23, Luverne - 1,428
Kendra Syverson, '23, Mahnomen/Waubun - 1,527
Peyton Stevermer, '23, Mankato East - 1,286
Teresa Kiewiet, '23, Mankato West - 1,241
Kennedy Klick, '23, Maple Grove - 1,389

GIRLS 1,000 LIST CONTINUED

Claire McGregor, '24, Maple River - 1,462
Chloe Jarnot, '23, Maranatha Christian - 1,646
Brianna Simpson, '23, Marshall - 1,134
Madeline Guetzkow, '23, Mayer Lutheran - 1,074
Maggie Westling, '24, Milaca - 1,571
Olivia Wren, '24, Minneapolis Roosevelt - 1,256
Jaida Walker, '24, Minneapolis Roosevelt - 1,189
Virginia Johnson, '23, Mpls. Southwest - 1,647
Jhanae Green, '23, Mpls. Southwest - 1,073
Addison Mack, '25, Minnehaha Academy - 2,634
Angel Hill, '24, Minnehaha Academy - 1,399
Ireland Stassen, '23, Minneota - 1,055
Avery Koenen, '23, Montevideo - 2,199
Tenley Epema, '23, Montevideo - 1,290
Audrey Jakway, '23, Mounds Park Acad. - 1,198
Nora Pederson, '24, Mounds Park Acad. - 1,197
Jordan Zubich, '24, Mountain Iron-Buhl - 2,578
Sage Ganyo, '23, Mountain Iron-Buhl - 1,956
Hali Savela, '24, Mountain Iron-Buhl - 1,171
Addison Lindow, '23, Nevis - 1,081
Avery Rich, '23, New London-Spicer - 1,270
Sidney Schultz, '23, New Richland-H-E-G - 1,831
Bella Bauck, '23, New York Mills - 1,328
Sophia Lien, '23, Norman County East/
Ulen-Hitterdal - 1,044
Ella Kuhlman, '25, North Branch - 1,219
Hannah Kinsey, '23, North Woods - 1,177
Grace Heins, '24, Ogilvie - 1,424
Kadence Pierce, '26, Ogilvie - 1,012
Lauren Knudson, '23, Orono - 1,232
Aalayah Wilson, '23, Osseo - 1,645
Sydney Nelson, '23, Park of CG - 1,168
Tori Weaver, '23, Park Rapids Area - 1,105
Maci Martini, '23, Pequot Lakes - 1,880
Kelsi Martini, '24, Pequot Lakes - 1,207
Willow Thiel, '24, Perham - 1,394
Juliana Ewald, '23, Pillager - 1,337
Sophie Lahti, '23, Pine City - 1,454
Karly Juszczak, '24, Pine City - 1,270
Kloey Lind, '23, Pine City - 1,195
Ramsey Tulenchik, '23, Pine River-
Backus - 1,507
Hope Carlson, '23, Proctor - 1,067
Maddyn Greenway, '26, Providence Acad. - 2,306
Grace Counts, '23, Providence Acad. - 1,598
Paige Ford, '23, Randolph - 1,522
Gabrielle Casavan, '23, Red Lake Falls - 1,159
Sammi Chandler, '23, Red Wing - 1,013
Savannah McGowan, '23, Robbinsdale
Armstrong - 1,776
Karlee Fisher, '23, Rob. Armstrong - 1,023
Taylor Clarey, '24, Rochester Century - 1,092
Ella Hopkins, '23, Rochester Lourdes - 1,035
Hannah Hanson, '23, Rochester Mayo - 1,198
Morgan Marks, '23, Rock Ridge - 1,010
Jada Bierschback, '23, Rocori - 1,438
Clara Glad, '23, Rogers - 1,337
Katelyn Maciej, '23, Rogers - 1,037
Drew Johnston, '23, Roseville Area - 1,295
Kylie Waytashek, '24, Royalton - 1,304
Kaylee Ruberg, '23, Rushford-Peterson - 1,465
Avery Templin, '23, Sartell-St. Stephen - 1,286
Cierra Kortan, '25, Sauk Centre - 1,050
Kate Friese, '23, Schaeffer Academy - 1,103
Kadence Hesse, '24, Sleepy Eye - 2,087
Brea Mertz, '24, Sleepy Eye - 1,488
Adella Olesiak, '23, South Ridge - 2,097
Svea Snickers, '24, South Ridge - 1,424
Chloe Brunsberg, '23, SW Christian - 1,687
Brooklyn Sturm, '24, Springfield - 1,201
Kayli Hinze, '23, St. Clair - 1,503
Laura Hauge, '24, St. Croix Lutheran - 2,116
Zoey Washington, '23, St. Croix Lutheran - 1,201
Ivy Lothenbach, '24, St. Croix Prep - 1,099
Taylor Sodeman, '23, St. James Area - 1,485
Shantell Harden, '23, St. Louis Park - 1,088
Tessa Johnson, '23, St. Michael-Alb. - 2,289
Shania Nichols-VanNett, '23, St. Paul
Como Park - 1,063
Rhyan Holmgren, '24, St. Peter - 1,658
Haylie Strum, '23, Stewartville - not known
Lexi Karlen, '23, Stillwater - 1,184
Amy Thompson, '24, Stillwater - 1,159
Jordan Munson, '23, Tracy-Milroy-Balaton - 1,277
Brylee Iverson, '23, Triton - 1,763
Karly Holm, '23, Two Harbors - 1,684
Elizabeth Lukken, '24, Underwood - 1,490
Mo Bugbee, '23, Underwood - 1,079
Kelsey Frank, '23, Wabasso - 1,017
Madison Carsten, '23, Wadena-Deer
Creek - 1,130
Aubrey Morrison, '25, Walker-Hackensack-
Akeley - 1,271
Faith Lilly, '24, Warroad - 1,225
Kloe Wadd, '23, Waseca - 1,060
Claire Stark, '23, West Central Area - 1,006
Isabel Klumper, '24, Westbrook-Walnut
Grove - 1,103
Brylie Schultz, '23, Wheaton/Herman-
Norcross - 1,594
Janae Sjodin, '23, Wrenshall - 1,066
Hannah Stark, '23, Yellow Medicine East - 1,132
Payton McEachern, '23, Zimmerman - 1,338
Samantha Paulsen, '23, Zimmerman - 1,284

1,000-Point Club notebook

By Bruce Strand

Daniel Freitag, whose 1,675 career points for Bloomington Jefferson was the most of any Class 4A junior, will leave the Jaguars his senior year to play for Southern California Academy. The 6-foot-2 point guard averaged 28.3 points, most in the metro area and most of any Class 4A player, along with 9.6 rebounds and 4.0 assists. His team finished 14-13 with no other players averaging double digits. Freitag, recruited by the Gophers among other teams, is ranked 60th by Rivals and 93rd by 247Sports. He told the Star-Tribune that he loves Jefferson but was “playing out of position” and wanted to develop more for his college position. Freitag had already surpassed Cole Aldrich, who played eight seasons in the NBA, as the Jaguars scoring leader. Also a star quarterback, he reportedly has nine Division I offers for basketball and four for football.

Koi Perich, a junior who has scored 1,540 points for Esko, recently committed to the Gopher football team, one of seven Big Ten schools recruiting him. The 6-foot-1, 195-pound safety is the No. 2 prospect in the state for the 2024 class and 28th nationally at safety according to 247Sports.com. Petrich’s junior year included averaging 22.8 points per game for a 25-4 basketball team, after scoring 25 touchdowns for an 11-1 football team via rushing (11), receiving (9), and punt/kickoff returns (5). Petrich had a 50-point game as a sophomore.

Taryn Hamling of Grand Rapids finished with 2,337 points after scoring 29 in their Section 7AAA semi-finals win over Hibbing. Suffering from what her mother/coach Kris Hamling described as “internal issues,” she did not play in the section finals win over Cloquet or in the state tournament, where the Thunderhawks lost twice without their 22.7 points per game floor leader, ending a 24-game win streak. Hamling still recorded the most career points of any girl in the Class of 2023. She will join her sister Heaven Hamling at North Dakota State next year. Heaven, who holds GRHS’s record with 2,783 points, will be a senior with the Bison. Their

mother coached them both in high school, but stepped down after the current season (her 10th) in order to “make it to all the games next season for NDSU.”

Owen Leach’s 89 points in the state tournament were the most of any player on the 32 teams and boosted his final total to 2,869 in his career for Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton. The 6-foot-6 guard tallied 29 points in a 63-61 win over Plainview-Elgin-Millville, 30 in a 79-64 loss to Albany, and 30 in an 86-69 loss to Holy Family Catholic. The Minnesota-Duluth hoops recruit was playing the his second state tournament of his senior year. He was the quarterback of the DGF football team that lost in the Class 3A Prep Bowl finals and finished 12-1.



Owen Leach of DGF was top

One player not in the 1,000-point list is Holy Family Catholic’s 6-foot-11 Collin Mullholland, who was the second-leading scorer in the state tournament with 78 points. Mullholland, who has signed with Chattanooga, came down from Canada to play his senior season with HFC. His HFC teammate, Mr. Basketball finalist Boden Kapke, also 6-foot-11, totaled 1,781 points, and another, junior guard Kole Hanson, has 1,103 for Edina and HFC. Kapke will play for Butler.

Jack Janicki of White Bear Lake reached 2,000 points on the last shot of his career, a free throw that clinched a 68-64 win over Andover in the fifth-place game in the state Class 4A tournament. Janicki and his close neighbor Max Shikenjanski of conference rival Stillwater, who had 2,406, were the only Class 4A boys with 2,000 points this year.

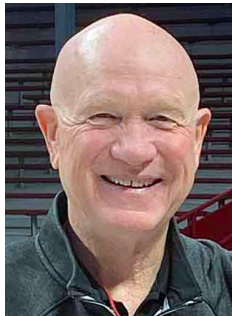
Maddyn Greenway, Providence Academy freshman with 2,306 points already, poured in 111 in the state tournament, the third-highest total ever. Carlie Wagner of New Richland-Hartland has the tournament record of 130 points (in 2014) and the career tournament record of 323 in eight games (2012-13-14). Greenway, the three seasons left, has a shot at both those records along with Rebekah Dalman’s career record of 5,060 points for Braham.

Reflections on point lists

This issue is full of information on players reaching the the 1,000-point plateau and reaching 2,000, 3,000, and 4,000 points in a career. Congratulations to all.

Before I offer an opinion on that, I'd like to give a shout out to Matt Peterson of Starbuck, who is the unofficial historian/statistician on Minnesota basketball. He doesn't make money doing it, he just does it because he enjoys it. Thank you, Matt.

Part of me doesn't like a big deal being made about individual scoring. It is a team game, so why do we acknowledge who puts the ball into the basket. Simple - because we can. Americans are traditionally obsessed with numbers. If we can count something, we do. So stats on scoring points, getting rebounds, handing out assists, making steals, making turnovers, and blocking shots are kept religiously.



Jeff McCarron

Why not deflections that become a steal, creating a jump ball, winning a jump ball, ball pressure that creates a turnover, a defensive stop on a shooter. Oops! I may be starting something. Everyone of these actions and more affect winning or losing.

We are not machines, and basketball is not a science. There are many intangibles that help a team win that can't be found in the stats. And some intangibles that cause a team to lose can be hidden by big numbers.

I remember a good college player (name withheld) playing at a college in the North Central Conference in the 1970's who joined a team that had a 7-7 conference record the previous year. He averaged 29 points a game the next season, and someone said he wondered why he wasn't named MVP of the league. It could be that his team finished 1-13 in the league that year. Somehow his 29 points didn't translate into more wins.

But since we do keep track of points, is it fair to compare players across the history of Minnesota basketball? Let's take a look.

1) There was no 3-point shot until the 1987. Many shots were made from the "top of the key" or corner or wing that were 19 feet 9 inches or more but that extra point wasn't awarded. Advantage to modern day scorers.

2) But there was a single free throw given on the first four fouls of a half. That's potentially 16 more free throws a team could take during stopped time. But that team also gave up possession to get that one shot - not exactly an advantage when a 2-pointer or 3-pointer could have been made. Let's call that a draw.

3) Games are now 9-minute quarters instead of 8-minute quarters. That's 102 more minutes in a regular season - over 3 games. Advantage modern day.

4) Courts were shorter in many cases in the early days. Advantage early scorers.

5) In the very early days, there was a jump ball after every made basket. Big advantage for early scorers with a big man jumping ball after every basket. The other team may have never gotten the ball!

6) Probably the biggest difference is that teams now play about 8 more games per season. That's 600-800 more points. With 9-minute quarters, that's 11 games a year times 4-year career is 44 games times 20-25 points that's 900-1,100 more points. So scoring 1,000 in the 1960's would be similar to scoring 2,000 today. 2,000 then like 4,000 today. Roughly.

7) Not many baskets were available to players to practice shooting then. But the available baskets got MUCH more use then than they do now. And on and on....

I remember when a ranking of golfers was kept on the all-time career money-winning list. This was destined to become irrelevant as purses and inflation increased, but they kept doing it. It wasn't until it became "ridiculous" when a player finishing about 50th in the PGA rankings passed Arnold Palmer on the list. Someone finally said, "This is ridiculous and disrespects an earlier generation". The career rankings by money won died.

It does take hard-earned skill to put the ball in the basket, so keeping track of individual points may have a place, but let's keep the emphasis on teams and not rank players from across 110 years on the same points list.

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